



Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that starts on page 7, line 15 of the international publication with the following paragraph:

Fig. 8 is a simplified side elevation view that shows image sensors 22. With reference to Figs. 3 and 8, the properties of fibers 46 determine the maximum off axis angle at which light emanates from fibers 46. To facilitate a sharp projected light edge and minimize angular components contained within a light line 70 projected on wood board 24 from slit 50, a light blinder 34 is attached to housing 26. Although light blinder 34 can be positioned to be generally parallel or planar with array alignment plate 32, blinder 34 can be positioned at an optimal angle for the inspection application and in relation to the location of image sensors 22. Such an optimal angle may partly determine or be partly determined by the height of blinder 34 which is preferably short enough to avoid blocking the view of a given image sensor 22 while still able to provide a generally vertical light line 70 ^{[[64]]} having no vignette effect. Due to the line source nature of light line 70, blinder 34 is also preferably sufficiently short enough to avoid decreasing light intensity due to distance. Blinder 34 is also preferably positioned at a distance from wood board 24 to accommodate the optical data acquisition by image sensors 22, and its closeness to wood board 24 is partly limited by its damage susceptibility.

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